

Scheme. There is, of course, much to be achieved in harnessing the expertise of amateurs to projects led by professionals, such as ecological surveys, mapping schemes, and the study of insect migration and dispersal, in the same way that the British Trust of Ornithology has so effectively co-ordinated the activities and work of Britain's numerous knowledgeable amateur ornithologists.

Summary

Particulars are given of movements of the Large White Butterfly *Pieris brassicae* (L.) in the summer of 1992 reported in Germany and the Netherlands, and published in journals there; and these are discussed in relation to the apparent immigrations in the same period reported from the English side of the North Sea. It is suggested that on the evidence of the Continental data and that provided by Mendel (1995), that at least the bulk of the large numbers of *brassicae* seen on the eastern coasts of England did in fact come across the North Sea from the Continental mainland.

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Flying power of *Atlantoraphidia maculicollis* Stephens (Raphidioptera: Raphidiidae)

A specimen of the snake-fly, *Atlantoraphidia maculicollis*, flew to m.v. light here on 14 July 1996. I am grateful to Stephen Brooks of the Natural History Museum for identifying the insect and for commenting that the species is widespread in the United Kingdom and associated with pine-woods. After selective felling in this village we are left with no pines and the nearest pine-woods are about four miles away. It would, therefore, seem likely that the snake-fly had flown a considerable distance, a view possibly supported by the arrival here on the same night of several heath and pine moths. Whereas distance presents no problem to moths, which are regular dispersers, I do

wonder how an insect of such apparent ungainliness as the snake-fly can negotiate flight over distance. I should be interested to hear of other instances or to receive any general comments about the flight capabilities of such insects.— ALASDAIR ASTON, Wake's Cottage, Selborne, Hampshire GU34 3JH.

EDITORIAL COMMENT: Snake-flies (Raphidioptera) are very poor flyers. Usually they show a kind of “jumping flight”, sometimes also fluttering, and only in the bright sunshine they may fly in a buzzing-like way over a distance of a few metres. Some species of the family Inocelliidae with relatively short wings compared to the large abdomen are possibly unable to fly at all. In the course of the past 35 years I have had the opportunity to observe thousands of individuals of a large part of the extant species in the field. Thus, one can absolutely exclude that the specimen reported above has actively flown over a distance of four miles. It is most likely that the individual has been drifted by wind.

There is, however, another possibility: Many snake-flies show a close, but not really strict association with certain species of trees. *A. maculicollis* usually develops on or around pines, but I have no doubt that a population may also survive in a biotope where the pines have been cut down – at least for a longer period. The biology of *A. maculicollis* has not yet been studied in detail and has thus not yet been fully understood so far.

Finally, an additional comment: The specimen reported was taken at a m.v. light. This is a very unusual event. Snake-flies are active only in the daytime and are found at artificial lights only occasionally and incidentally. Species of the genus *Dichrostigma* Navás were repeatedly found at light traps, but all other species are normally not attracted by m.v. (or other artificial) light. Any other observations are worth being published.— HORST ASPÖCK, Abt. für Med. Parasitologie, Klinisches Institut für Hygiene der Universität, Kinderspitalgasse 15, A-1095 Wien, Austria.

Yponomeuta rorrella (Hb.) (Lep.: Yponomeutidae) new to Wales

With reference to David Slade's paper on records of Microlepidoptera made in South Wales in 1995 (*antea* : 31-39), this species was not included in the draft which he sent me for checking and which is still on my files. Had it been there, I would have told him that he is to be congratulated on five, not four, species new to the Principality.

Although he is correct in stating that light-trapping “is generally accepted as the main method for collecting Lepidoptera”, the trap is a poor substitute for fieldwork. On a single day in late October, if directed to suitable localities, I would expect to add at least 50 species for Glamorgan. Next October I shall be aged 89 and am less agile than formerly, but if all goes well and suitable arrangements can be made, I would be prepared to justify that claim, if challenged to do so.— A.M. EMMET, Labrey Cottage, Victoria Gardens, Saffron Walden, Essex CB11 3AF.